

**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
B&C Colonia, Yuma County, Arizona  
Wastewater Collection System

**PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering authorizing the award of a Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) grant for the design and construction of a wastewater collection system to serve existing residents of the B&C Colonia in Yuma County, Arizona. The B&C Colonia collection lines will connect to the neighboring City of Yuma collection system and the wastewater will be treated at the Figueroa Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), which currently serves both city and county customers.

B&C Colonia is bounded by Avenue B on the east and Avenue C on the west; 1<sup>st</sup> Street on the north and 8th Street on the south. The area covers approximately 512 acres and includes 838 house lots. The City of Yuma's wastewater service area covers a portion of the Colonia and most of the land area around it. The City of Yuma's sewer coverage in the Colonia is currently only 8% of the total lots. The remaining 92% of the lots utilize septic systems and cesspools.

The proposed action consists of extending the wastewater collection system service to the B&C Colonia residents not currently within the City of Yuma service area. The project would involve the construction of a gravity collection system that would be connected to an existing receiving manhole. Wastewater from each house would be routed by gravity piping to main collection pipes along public rights of ways. The pipes would convey the flow, again by gravity, to an existing interceptor located along Avenue B and C. Three new lift stations would be constructed so that the required excavation depth of the gravity pipes could be minimized.

**PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The purpose of the proposed action is to address the environmental and public health risks associated with inadequate collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater. The proposed action will protect public health by providing collection and treatment of wastewater for 4,978 residents of the B&C Colonia that lack access to these services. These residents currently use septic systems and cesspools for wastewater disposal, which has resulted in health and safety issues due to overflows, surface pooling and sewage backups in homes. House lot sizes and soil conditions that are not conducive to supporting on-site treatment systems, combined with a very high water table, present a strong need for the provision of a wastewater collection and conveyance system. The proposed action will eliminate the use of inadequate wastewater disposal practices by providing collection service and conveying flows to the wastewater treatment plant in Yuma, resulting in improved environmental and sanitation conditions.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), EPA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes the potential environmental impacts of

the proposed action. After considering a wide range of regulatory, environmental (both natural and human) and socio-economic factors, the EA did not identify any significant impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of the proposed wastewater collection system improvements.

#### **PUBLIC REVIEW**

The EA is on file, along with other project materials, and is available for public inspection at the EPA Region 9 office in San Francisco, California. The EA can also be viewed on-line on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/border>. Copies of the EA are also available for public review at the following locations.

- 1) Yuma County Development Services, 2351 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St, Yuma, AZ 85364  
Contact: Nancy Ngai (928) 817-5156
- 2) Yuma County Library, 350 Third Ave, Yuma, AZ 85364  
Contact: Cecelia Young (928) 782-1871
- 3) Yuma County Administrators Office, 198 Main St, Yuma, AZ 85364  
Contact: Sue Stallworth (928) 373-1010

Interested persons, including those who disagree with this proposal, may submit comments to EPA Region 9 within 30 calendar days from the day this document is issued. No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration date of this comment period, which ends October 21, 2006. Comments, via letter, fax or email, should be sent to: Susan Cox (WTR-4), U.S. EPA Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. Telephone Number: (415) 972-3555, Fax: (415) 947-3537, Email: [cox.susan@epa.gov](mailto:cox.susan@epa.gov).

After EPA assesses any comments received, those comments, EPA responses, and this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator for review and signature. If this FNSI is signed by the Regional Administrator, it will not be re-circulated for review but will be available to any individual upon request.

#### **FINDING**

After review of the EA and any comments received, EPA has determined that the proposed wastewater collection improvement project for B&C Colonia, Yuma County will not have a significant impact on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for this project.

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Wayne Nastri  
Regional Administrator

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Date